

Bank of India

1218. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank of India has signed a pact with Union Government for the returning of Rupees 93.47 crore from its capital; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Bank of India have returned to the Government on 31.1.97, a sum of Rs. 93.47 crores out of its capital. The capital of the Bank now stands reduced to Rs. 489.00 crores from the level of Rs. 582.47 crores as on 31.3.96.

Illegal Mining of Coal

1219. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of illegal mining of coal brought into the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to stop such illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL), illegal mining has been taking place in some of the mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL).

The number of illegal mining during the last three years is as under :

Company	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
ECL	55	58	61
BCCL	38	60	32
CCL	16	25	23

(b) The steps taken by the coal companies to stop illegal mining are as under :

- (i) The exposed coal faces in unused opencast mines have been, to the extent possible, covered with debris.
- (ii) Whenever any incident of illegal mining comes to the notice of the colliery authorities within the leasehold areas, patrolling by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is intensified. At times raids of such areas are conducted jointly by CISF and the Police.
- (iii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with State authorities/police to check such illegal activities.

Trade Agreement

1220. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of areas identified by the Government to improve trade by encouraging indigenous industries;

(b) the details of countries with whom the Government propose to improve our bilateral trade on priority basis;

(c) whether any review of the trade policy has been made during the last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Government to improve our Balance of Payment situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Areas identified by the Government for improving trade by encouraging indigenous industries include traditional and non-traditional export industries covering inter alia those which permit value added exports. The thrust areas identified are agro products, gem and jewellery, electronics including, software, textiles, engineering goods, leather manufacture and chemical products.

(b) India has trade relations with almost all the major countries in East Asia, West Asia, East Europe, America, Africa, Common Wealth of Independent States, Latin America and other regions. Continuous efforts to improve bilateral trade with all trading partners are made through Joint Commission meetings, trade agreements and participation in trade fairs. The countries which are important in terms of exports are USA, Japan, Hong Kong, U.K., Germany, UAE and Belgium. In view of the potential in emerging markets, emphasis is also given to promoting trade with Africa, Latin America and SAARC countries.

(c) and (d) The Exim policy in force for the period 1992-97 has been updated from time to time with a view to meeting the needs of the exporting community and the international market conditions.

(e) Balance of payment position is dependent on Balance of Trade. Since the trade deficit is the difference between value of imports and exports, the key to reducing trade deficit lies in increased exports. Export promotion measures are taken on a continuous basis through changes in Policy and procedures for providing a favourable environment for exports, involvement of State Governments and periodic consultation with trade and industry.

White Paper on External and Internal Debt

1221. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to work out a White Paper on external and internal debt position for